

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004. Claims 1-56 are pending in the application. Claims 21 and 54 have been amended. Claims 47-49 have been cancelled, and Claims 1-46 and 50-56 have been allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 21-38, 47-49, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. To expedite prosecution, Applicant cancels Claims 47-49 and amends independent Claims 21 and 54 to recite "logic encoded in computer-readable media," as suggested by Examiner Revak in a telephone conference with the undersigned. Because the M.P.E.P. explicitly authorizes this type of claim as statutory ("[A] claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program ... is ... statutory." M.P.E.P. § 2160(IV)(B)(1)(a)(Rev. 1, Feb., 2003), Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 21 and 54 are allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The cancellation of Claims 47-49 renders moot the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of Claims 1-46 and 50-56.

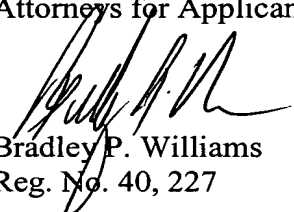
Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney for Applicants at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

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